

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. Following the Chinese Nationalist retreat from the Ai Hsuai (N 23-15, E 99-35) section into Wa territory in 1951 large numbers of communists occupied Ai Hsuai and other Wa districts on the China side of the border. Christians were persecuted and their homes burned. The principal rulers and leaders of Ai Hsuai who had cooperated with the Nationalists fled from their homes.
2. In general the Wa people are strongly opposed to communism. Some of their people were taken to Communist China for propaganda purposes and indoctrination. One group was permitted to witness the execution of 300 persons on a single day in a direct attempt to intimidate the hillsmen. The device did not succeed. The Wa have a special feeling of affection and respect for white men, and are unanimous in their desire to have the white man assist them and even rule them.
3. The Wa rulers are particularly anxious for American assistance and in return offer to disclose ore deposits. They could present an effective barrier to communist encroachments if given capable American leadership and proper aid. The Wa are not too eager to cooperate with the Chinese unless they are accompanied by white men. This attitude is of long standing and results from Chinese abuse of the Wa. Large bands of guerrillas did much looting during the Sino-Japanese War without furthering the victory. Recently the Wa village of Yaong Si Neh was deserted by its inhabitants at the approach of a Chinese band. The town was looted and the Chinese attacked by some Wa, but no casualties resulted. As the Chinese band approached Yawngpang (N 22-42, E 98-49) messages were sent ahead that no harm was meant. The villagers responded by gathering together to meet their visitors. The Chinese apparently mistook this gesture of cordiality for hostility and fired upon the Wa, killing about 30 persons, including women and children. In addition, the Chinese pay little of anything for the food they take in this area of insufficient quantities of food for its indigenous population.

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